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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today announced that the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff Department will receive a \$1,327,882.50 federal disaster aid grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant will reimburse the Parish for costs to replace the St. Claude Substation which was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

"The men and women of the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Department saved thousands of lives last year when Katrina's floodwaters submerged the entire community," said Melancon. "As we move forward with the recovery and rebuilding effort, their bravery, resourcefulness, and dedication will be remembered. With this grant, the Department can rebuild damaged facilities and continue to serve needs of the Parish."

"In recent weeks, my colleagues in Congress and I were able to strike a deal to provide Louisiana with a significant share of offshore oil and gas royalties to fund hurricane prevention and coastal restoration projects. I will continue to work in the upcoming Congress to make sure rebuilding and protecting Louisiana remains a high priority in Washington."

Strong winds, heavy rains and flooding from Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage to the St. Claude Substation, a two-story building constructed in the 1920s. Flooding of up to ten feet damaged the building, contents, and mechanical and electrical systems. Wind tore up the roof and interior ceiling. This grant provides for the demolition and replacement of the building and associated mechanical and electrical systems. Replacement of the contents will be covered under a separate grant.

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